Pearls of Wisdom from the Salafus Saalih

BETWEEN HOPE AND FEAR:
Sufyaan Ibn 'Uyaynah (d.198H) – rahimahullaah – said: **"He whose sin is due to desire, then have hope for him; and he whose sin is due to pride, then fear for him. Because Aadam ('alayhis-salaam) sinned due to desire, and he was forgiven; and Iblees sinned due to pride, and he was cursed."** [1]

SIGNS OF TRUE BROTHERHOOD:
'Alee Ibn Abee Taalib (radiyallaahu 'anhu) said: **"Your brother is o-ne who – if he brings a calamity upon you sometimes, then he does not cease having mercy upon you. Your brother is not the o-ne who – if your affairs become disrupted – starts abusing and insulting you."** [2]

DIMINISHING PIETY:
Imaam al-Hasan al-Basree (d.110H) – rahimahullaah – said, when he came across a group of people disputing: **"These o-nes have become tired of worship, speaking has become easy for them, and their piety has diminished, and that is why they talk."** [3]

Iyaas Ibn Mu'aawiyah (d.122H) – rahimahullaah – said: **"There is no o-ne who does not know his own faults, except that he is stupid."** It was said to him, **'Then what is your shortcoming?'** He said, **"Too much talk."** [4]

THE SHIELD OF THE SCHOLAR:
Imaam Maalik Ibn Anas (d.179H) – rahimahullaah – said: **"The shield of the scholar is saying, 'I do not know.' So if he forgets it, then his enemies strike him!"** [5]

Al-Haytham Ibn Jameel said: **"I heard Maalik being asked about forty-eight questions, he replied to thirty-two of them saying, 'I do not know.'"** [6]

'Abdur-Rahmaan Ibn Mahdee (d.198H) – rahimahullaah – said: **"We were with Maalik Ibn Anas when a man came saying, 'O Abaa 'Abdullaah, I have traveled a distance of six months. The people of my land sent me to ask you about a matter.'** So he said, **'Ask!'** So the man asked him some things, so he replied, **'I do not know.'** – and the man thought he had come to someone who knew everything, so he said, **'What shall I tell the people of my land when I return to them?' He said, 'Say to them, Maalik Ibn Anas does not know.'"** [7]

BENEFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OR MERE TALK:
Ibn Mas'ood (radiyallaahu 'anhu) said:**"You are in a time whose scholars are many, and its speakers are few. After you will come a time whose scholars are few, and whose speakers are many."** [8]

PROFIT IN THE HEREAFTER:
'Awn Ibn 'Abdullaah (d.120H) – rahimahullaah – said: **"Three are from eemaan (faith): modesty, chastity, and**

withholding the tongue – not the heart, nor the actions – since these are things that bring profit in the Hereafter, and loss in this life. And whatever is gained in the Hereafter is greater than whatever is lost in this life." [9]

Footnotes:

[1] Related by Imaam adh-Dhahabee in Siyar A'laamun-Nubalaa (8/471).
[2] Related by Ibn Katheer in al-Bidaayah wan-Nihaayah (7/128)
[3] Related by Ahmad in az-Zuhd (p. 272) and by Aboo Nu'aym in al-Hilyatul-Awliyaa (2/156) [4] Related by Aboo Nu'aym al-Asbahaanee in al-Hilyatul-Awliyaa (3/124)
[5] Hilyatul-Awliyaa (6/323)
[6] Related by Ibn 'Abdul-Barr in al-Jaami'ul-Bayaanil-'Ilm wa –Fadlihi (2/25)
[7] Related by Ibn Abee Haatim in al-Jarh wat-Ta'deel (1/17)
[8] Related by at-Tabaraanee in al-Kabeer (no. 8066), and by al-Bukhaaree in al-Adabul-Mufrad (no. 789), and by al-Haafidh Ibn Hajar in Fathul-Baaree (10/1510) who declared it authentic.
[9] Related by 'Abdur-Razzaaq in his Musannaf (11/142), and the chain of narrators in authentic.

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